

Snailback

Creek: At the 5.4-mile mark there is a parking area to the Lower Snailback trail that goes down to the Snailback rapids on Illinois River. This marked trail follows a Jeep track about a half-mile down to the river, a stunning section of the river with a picnic table, swimming hole and two separate beaches on the river. The rapid is downstream from the Snailback Creek outlet.



Deer Creek Center (DCC), where the Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) is located, is on the left about 1-1/2 miles down before you get to the river itself. An 850-acre ranch frequented by Hollywood icon John

Wayne, it shows off the grandeur of the area. Feel free to come give yourself a tour (check in at the ranch house) and enjoy lunch on the front porch of the 7,000-square-foot ranch house, or under the pavilion, where you can look

out at the surrounding mountains, or walk down to Deer Creek, a main tributary of the Wild and Scenic Illinois River. Or phone ahead and find out what recreation and natural history programs SFI is offering and take full advantage of its guides and naturalists, as they teach about the region's outdoor riches on outdoor explorations for people of all ages and learning styles.

Of course, if you're a back-country enthusiast, stop the car. You're here. Illinois Valley is a jumping-off point for the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, Siskiyou Wilderness, Red Buttes Wilderness, Oregon Caves National Monument, as well as the above-mentioned Wild and Scenic Illinois River. Visit Illinois Valley's Forest Service station or Visitor Center and off you go!

McCaleb Ranch: At the 16-mile marker turn left on FS 087. About a quarter-mile down the road you come to a swinging bridge. Enjoy the huge swimming hole called Divers Hole. Scuba divers bring their gear and explore this pool as it's so large and deep, so we would recommend you bring your snorkel gear! A trail starts about 100 yards before you reach the bridge - it's an old helicopter landing and the trail takes you after about a quarter-mile or so, down to a beautiful waterfall.

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